

Noncreditable Foods in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Foods served in reimbursable meals and snacks must meet the [SFSP Meal Patterns](#). For more information on the SFSP meal patterns and crediting requirements, visit the “[Meal Patterns for the SFSP](#)” and “[Crediting Foods](#)” sections of the Connecticut State Department of Education’s (CSDE) SFSP webpage.



Noncreditable foods are foods and beverages that do not contribute toward the meal patterns for the USDA’s Child Nutrition Programs. Examples include potato chips, pudding, ice cream, gelatin, cream cheese, bacon, condiments (e.g., syrup, jam, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, and butter), and water. The chart on page 2 lists additional examples of noncreditable foods for the SFSP. This list is not all-inclusive.

SFSP funds cannot be used to purchase noncreditable foods, except for condiments served with creditable foods. For example, SFSP funds cannot be used to purchase gelatin, pudding, or canned cream soups. For more information, refer to [USDA Memo SP 06-2012: Serving Additional Foods in the Summer Food Service Program](#).

SFSP sponsors may serve some noncreditable foods in addition to the meal components to add variety, help improve acceptability in the meal, and satisfy appetites. Some examples include maple syrup on pancakes, salad dressing on tossed greens, and condiments such as ketchup or mustard on sandwiches and other entrees.

To ensure that SFSP meals and snacks meet children’s nutritional needs, the CSDE encourages SFSP sponsors to use discretion when serving noncreditable foods. Noncreditable foods typically contain few nutrients and are higher in added sugars, saturated fats, and sodium. Menu planners should read labels, be aware of the ingredients in foods, and limit the frequency and amount of less nutritious choices.



Noncreditable Foods in the SFSP

Examples of noncreditable foods for the SFSP meal patterns

Almond milk ¹	Gelatin, regular and sugar free
Bacon and bacon bits	Grain products and recipes that are not whole or enriched
Banana chips	Honey
Bread products that are not whole grain or enriched ¹	Hot chocolate
Butter	Ice cream
Candy ²	Ice cream novelties
Candy-coated popcorn ²	Ice milk
Chili sauce	Iced coffee ²
Chocolate milk-based drinks, e.g., Yoo-Hoo ²	Iced tea ²
Coffee (regular, decaffeinated, and iced) ²	Imitation cheese
Commercial processed products without a Child Nutrition (CN) label or product formulation statement (PFS), e.g., entrees, smoothies, and breaded vegetables ³	Jam
Commercial smoothies that contain dietary or herbal supplements	Jelly
Condiments, e.g., ketchup, mustard, relish, barbecue sauce	Ketchup
Cranberry cocktail drink ²	Lemonade ²
Cream, half and half	Limeade ²
Cream cheese	Maple syrup
Cream soups, canned, e.g., cream of mushroom, cream of celery, cream of broccoli	Margarine
Dehydrated vegetables used for seasoning	Marshmallows
Drinkable or squeezable yogurt, probiotic dairy drinks, and yogurt drinks	Mayonnaise
Eggnog	Mustard
Egg whites	Nectar drinks ²
Frozen yogurt	Nondairy milk substitutes, e.g., almond milk, soy milk, and rice milk
Fruit drink, fruit beverage, powdered fruit drink mix ⁴	Pickle relish
Fruit leathers	Popsicles (not 100 percent juice)
Fruit punch (not 100 percent juice) ²	Potato chips
Fruit snacks, e.g., fruit roll-ups, wrinkles, and twists	Probiotic dairy drinks
	Pudding
	Pudding pops
	Rice milk
	Salad dressings
	Sherbet
	Soda, regular and diet ²

Noncreditable Foods in the SFSP

Examples of noncreditable foods for the SFSP meal patterns, *continued*

Soups, commercial non-vegetable canned, e.g., beef barley, beef noodle, turkey or chicken noodle, and turkey or chicken rice	Spreadable fruit
Sour cream	Syrup
Soy milk	Tea (regular, herbal, and iced) ²
Soy yogurt	Tofu and tofu products
Sports drinks ²	Water
	White rice, unenriched ¹

¹ For guidance on creditable grains, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Requirements for the Grains/Breads Component of the SFSP Meal Patterns](#).

² If the SFSP operates on school premises, Sections 10-215b-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies prohibits selling and giving these competitive foods to students. For more information, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Overview of Connecticut Competitive Foods Regulations](#), and visit the CSDE's [Competitive Foods in Schools](#) and [Beverage Requirements](#) webpages.

³ Commercial processed products without a CN label or PFS cannot credit in SFSP meals and snacks. For more information, refer to the CSDE's resources, [Child Nutrition \(CN\) Labeling Program](#), [Product Formulation Statements](#) and [Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the SFSP](#), and the USDA's [Tips for Evaluating a Manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement](#); and visit the "Crediting Commercial Processed Products" section of the CSDE's SFSP webpage.

Resources

Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Accepting_Processed_Product_Documentation_SFSP.pdf

Administrative Guidance for SFSP Sponsors (USDA):

https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/sfsp/SFSP_Admin_Guide_Sept2016.pdf

Child Nutrition (CN) Labeling Program (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/CN_Labeling_Program.pdf

Crediting Breakfast Cereals in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Cereals_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Commercial Processed Products ("Documents/Forms" section of CSDE's SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Summer-Food-Service-Program/Documents#CreditingCommercialProcessedProducts>

Noncreditable Foods in the SFSP

Crediting Foods Made from Scratch Products (“Documents/Forms” section of CSDE’s SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Summer-Food-Service-Program/Documents#CreditingFoodsScratch>

Crediting Deli Meats in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Deli_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Enriched Grains in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Enriched_Grains_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Foods in the SFSP (“Documents/Forms” section of CSDE’s SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Summer-Food-Service-Program/Documents>

Crediting Juice in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Juice_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Legumes in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Legumes_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Legumes in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Legumes_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Nuts and Seeds in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Nuts_Seeds_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Smoothies in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Smoothies_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Summary Charts for the SFSP Meal Patterns (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Crediting_Summary_Charts_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Whole Grains in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Whole_Grains_SFSP.pdf

Crediting Yogurt in the SFSP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Credit_Yogurt_SFSP.pdf

Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs>

Noncreditable Foods in the SFSP

Meal Patterns for the SFSP (CSDE's SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Summer-Food-Service-Program#MealPatterns>

Menu Planning for the SFSP (CSDE's SFSP webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Summer-Food-Service-Program#MenuPlanning>

Nutrition Guide: Summer Food Service Program (USDA):

https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/USDA_SFSP_NutritionGuide.pdf

Product Formulation Statements (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/Product_Formulation_Statements.pdf

Requirements for the Grains/Breads Component of the Summer Food Service Program Meal Patterns (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Component_Grains_Breads_SFSP.pdf

Requirements for the Meat/Meat Alternates Component of the SFSP Meal Patterns (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Component_MMA_SFSP.pdf

Requirements for the Milk Component of the SFSP Meal Patterns (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Component_Milk_SFSP.pdf

Requirements for the Vegetables/Fruits Component of the SFSP Meal Patterns (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Component_Vegetables_Fruits_SFSP.pdf

USDA Memo SP 06-2012: Serving Additional Foods in the Summer Food Service Program:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/serving-additional-foods-summer-food-service-program>

USDA Memo SP 08-2019, CACFP 02-2019 and SFSP 02-2019: Update of Food Crediting in the Child Nutrition Programs:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/update-food-crediting-child-nutrition-programs>

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For more information, visit the [SFSP Meal Patterns](#) and [Crediting Foods in the SFSP](#) sections of the CSDE's SFSP webpage, or contact the [Summer Meals staff](#) in the CSDE's Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/SFSP/CreditingSFSP/Noncreditable_Foods_SFSP.pdf.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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